PEACE/WILLISTON
FISH & WILDLIFE
COMPENSATION
PROGRAM

BC hydro

BRITISH
COLUMBIA

# Dunlevy Wildlife Viewing Sign

F. B. Corbould
July 1994

PWFWCP Report No. 35

105-00943/

The Peace/Williston Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program is a cooperative venture of BC Hydro and the provincial fish and wildlife management agencies, supported by funding from BC Hydro. The Program was established to enhance and protect fish and wildlife resources affected by the construction of the W.A.C. Bennett and Peace Canyon dams on the Peace River, and the subsequent creation of the Williston and Dinosaur Reservoirs.

**Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, 1011 Fourth Ave. 3rd Floor, Prince George B.C. V2L 3H9**

Website: *www.bchydro.bc.ca/environment/initiatives/pwcp/*

This report has been approved by the Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Fish Technical Committee.

Citation: F. B. Corbould. July 1994. Dunlevy wildlife viewing sign. Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. Report No. 35. 3pp plus appendices.

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## PROJECT DETAILS

In an effort to better inform the public of wildlife viewing opportunities in the Dunlevy area and introduce the wildlife enhancement activities conducted by the Compensation Program, a wildlife viewing sign was established at the Dunlevy Provincial Recreation Area (B.C. Parks). This site was selected as adequate parking was available and other facilities such as picnic tables and washrooms were present (Map 1). In addition, the access (190 Road) to the Recreation Area and the parking lot is plowed by the Ministry of Highways throughout the winter.

The text and design of the wildlife viewing sign, "Wildlife of the Dunlevy Area", was developed by Compensation Program personnel (see Appendix for sign text). A wildlife viewing development plan for the area (Backmeyer, 1990) was used to assist with text content. The sign identifies where the more visible wildlife species can be found (eg. deer, elk, sheep, bald eagles), and gives a brief introduction on the Compensation Program and the wildlife enhancement activities conducted in the area.

Production of the sign was contracted to Full Spectrum Industries Inc. (Prince George). The 4 ft. by 8 ft. sign was constructed using 3/4" Crezon, with a protective lexan cover. The shelter, an Information Centre Shelter No. 3 (B.C. Parks), was contracted to M & R Wood Works and Cedar Signs (Dawson Creek). Directional signs along the access route were already present; signs are situated at the start of the Bennett Dam road in Hudson's Hope, and at the 190 Road turnoff from the Bennett Dam road.

The sign was erected on June 9th, 1994, and is located near the entrance to the parking area (see Appendix for photographs).

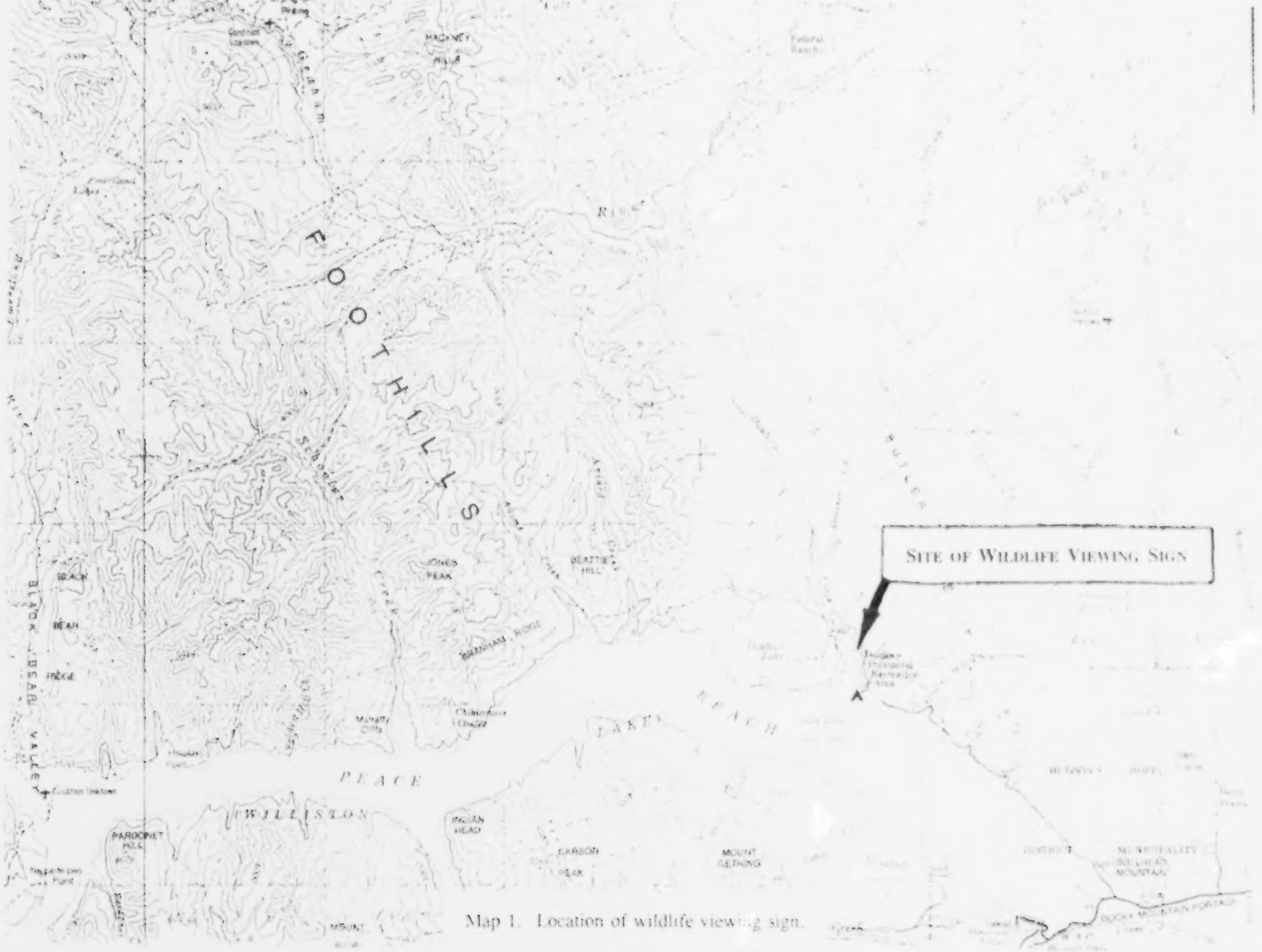
## PROJECT COST

The following is a list of expenditures for the production and installation of the wildlife viewing sign (excluding staff wages):

| | |
|---|---|
| Sign construction (contract) | $604 |
| Shelter production (contract) | $2049 |
| Installation equipment and supplies | $85 |
| Casual labour | $150 |
| TOTAL | $2888 |

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Check sign to monitor manufacturing integrity and possible vandalism.




Map 1. Location of wildlife viewing sign.

## REFERENCES

Backmeyer, R.J. 1990. Dunlevy Inlet wildlife viewing development plan. Ministry of Environment, Fort St. John, B.C. 66pp.

B.C. Environment. 1991. British Columbia Wildlife Watch: sign and information development guide. Draft Version. Victoria. 23pp.

# APPENDIX

1. Text of "Wildlife of the Dunlevy Area" viewing sign.

2. Photographs of sign.

## WILDLIFE OF THE DUNLEVY AREA

The Dunlevy Area, extending from Branham Ridge to Butler Ridge, provides spectacular wildlife viewing opportunities especially for deer, moose, elk and Stone's sheep. Moose, mule deer and white-tailed deer inhabit the area year round. Look for them in the shrub/grassland areas in the early morning and late afternoon.

Elk are also year round residents. In 1985, the Hudson's Hope Rod and Gun Club transplanted over 100 elk into the Dunlevy Area to supplement a small, existing herd. This herd has steadily grown since then. Watch for elk feeding within the Dunlevy Property and on the open grassy slopes along the north shore of the reservoir.

Stone's sheep live on the rocky cliffs of the area and feed on the adjacent grassy slopes. The cliffs provide essential escape terrain from predators. If travelling by boat or snowmobile along the northern shore of the reservoir, look for Stone's sheep on the rock escarpments at Rainbow Rocks. Stone's sheep live year round on Butler and Aylard Ridges but visit many other sites in the viewing area. Also look for caribou along Butler and Aylard Ridges, where they feed mostly on lichen.

Many other mammals live in the Dunlevy Area, including black bear, coyote, snowshoe hare, squirrels and chipmunks.

Songbirds are abundant due to the diversity of available habitats. Some species live in the area year round, while others come only to breed and nest. Many more species pass through on their spring and fall migrations. In the open shrub/grassland, look for Brewer's blackbirds and dark-eyed juncos. In mixed (deciduous and conifer) woodland areas, look for yellow-rumped warblers and black-capped chickadees. Flycatchers and yellow warblers use wetter habitats such as stream side and wetland areas.

Raptors (birds of prey) and woodpeckers also occur here. Bald eagles soar over the reservoir and perch on large snags along the shore. Red-tailed hawks and American kestrels fly over the open grasslands searching for food. Listen for pileated woodpeckers foraging for insects on snags and mature trees.

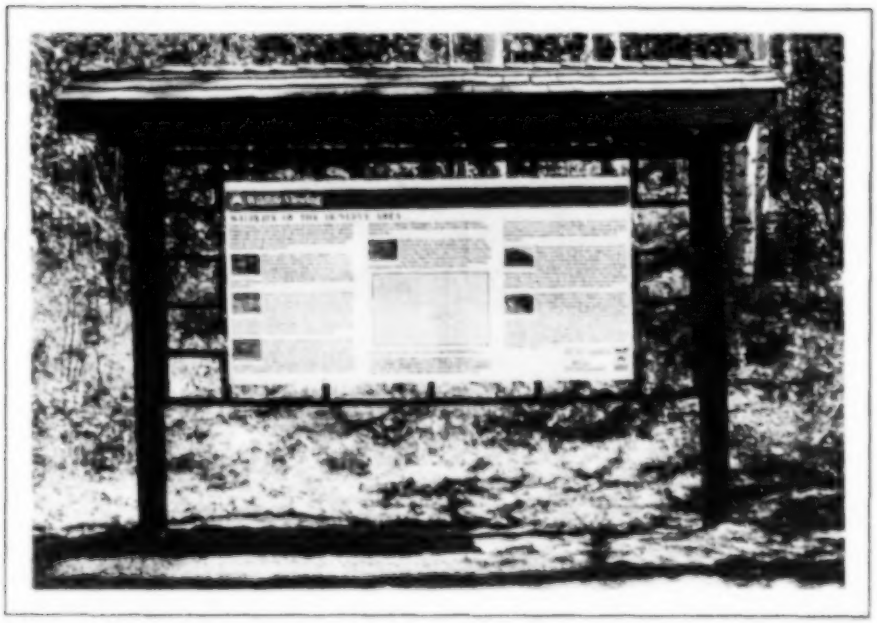
### Peace/Williston Compensation Program (PWCP)

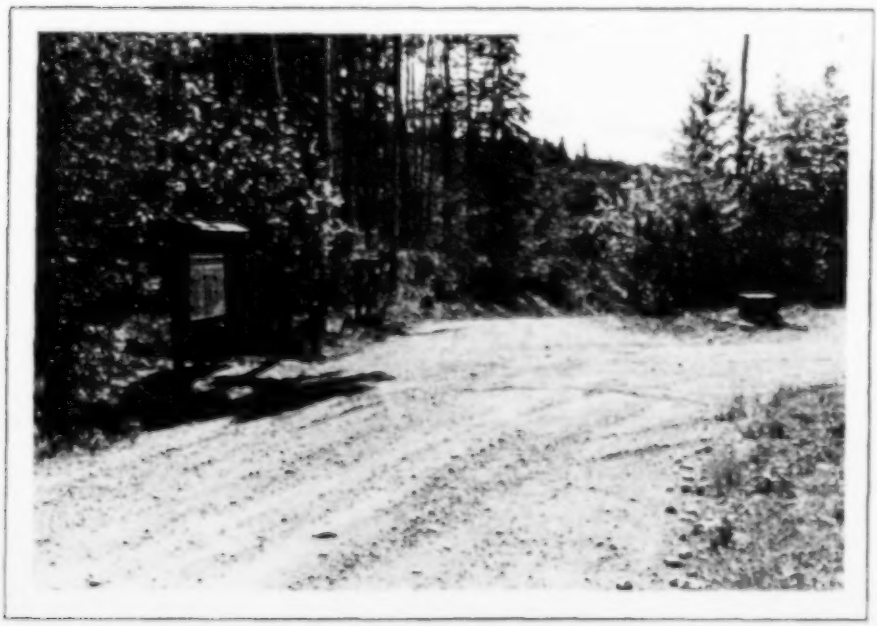
The PWCP, a joint venture between B.C. Hydro and B.C. Environment, was established in 1988 to enhance and protect fish and wildlife resources affected by the construction of the W.A.C. Bennett dam and formation of the Williston Reservoir. Habitat mapping has been conducted to help identify critical wildlife habitats (eg. winter range) and potential enhancement sites. Prescribed burning and land acquisition projects have been completed and are ongoing.

Prescribed burning is an enhancement technique used to set back the vegetation to an earlier growth stage (eg. grass, shrub). Mature aspen stands block sunlight to the forest floor and provide limited food for ungulates (eg. elk, deer, moose). Burning removes the dense

canopy so lush new grass and shrub species can emerge. Over the years, prescribed burning in the Dunlevy Area has created a mosaic of open shrub/grasslands and forested areas that supports many wildlife species.

Protecting key wildlife habitats is important to maintaining healthy wildlife populations. The PWCP has secured two parcels of valuable wildlife habitat on the north shore of the Peace Reach. The "Dunlevy" (681 hectares) and "Adams" (75 hectares) properties were purchased through The Nature Trust of B.C. with funding provided by the PWCP. The Nature Trust of B.C. acquires land to conserve areas of ecological significance. They retain ownership and grant a 99-year lease to B.C. Environment to manage the property. With proper management, these properties and surrounding areas will continue to be rich in wildlife values.





Wildlife Viewing
WILDLIFE OF THE DUNLEVY AREA
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